

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 13 January 2021: The Swiss Federal Council introduced new significant, temporary measures to further reduce contact between people. From Monday, 18 January, there will be a requirement to work from home, shops selling non-essential goods will be closed, stricter rules will apply to private events and gatherings, and measures to protect those at especially high risk will be strengthened in the workplace. Gatherings of people in public are limited to five people, and the same for private gatherings.

The Swiss Federal Office of Public Health publishes on its website the most accurate [federal measures](#), which were expanded, as expected, following the 6th of January announcement.

As of 6 January 2021: The Swiss Federal Council had announced a further extension of its recent December measures for the coronavirus, which will now be *through February*, due to the ongoing second wave in the region. This included an extension of the prior mandate that **all universities continue with distance learning**.

While the December measures initially allowed for some exceptions to the national measures *canton by canton*, the Federal Council announcements of 13 January will apply *to all regions*.

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES / INSTRUCTION

Our Spring semester began on January 11, 2021 with fully remote classes. It is our intention to shift bachelor classes back to campus-based delivery, with social distancing, as soon as we are authorized (and once it is safe) to do so. In that case, we will also offer simultaneous zoom access to all classes (ie, a hybrid option) for anyone who still needs to be remote.

At the masters level, individual academic departments have determined the format(s) that work best for each program and communicate to their students accordingly (the MA in Counseling has already announced that Spring I term will be fully remote, for example), and will communicate directly with student groups.

CAMPUS SERVICES CONTINUE (PRIMARILY REMOTE) / MODIFIED CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Through the remote teaching period, we will maintain student support services, while ensuring health and safety for students, faculty and staff, as per below:

- Spring semester will follow original dates (Spring Break week remains the week of March 8 - 12)
- Administrative and student services staff will continue with modified and/or remote hours
- Residence halls remain open and the fitness center has limited access (for residents only)
- Academic Advising will maintain a limited presence on campus for visits and/or face-to-face appointments; otherwise these services (and peer tutoring) will continue via zoom
- The Library has reduced hours for students and faculty. Appointment requests (in person but mostly online) and book requests should be made 24 hrs beforehand, by email or phone
- Student Counseling services will also continue operating, by appointment

Other campus offices such as Admissions, Business Office, Career Services, and the Registrar remain operational, with services available (mostly via zoom, or on-campus by appointment if necessary)

IT SUPPORT

IT services will maintain support for students and faculty (use it-support@webster.ch)

EVENTS - all university-sponsored campus events will be online until further notice. Please see webster.ch for registration information and for links to join us on zoom!

VISITORS - all external visitors to the University should request appointments in advance.